GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:134
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2016
Child Labour in MSME
Singh Shri Bharat

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a)whether the Government is aware that Child labourers are being engaged to work in various micro, small and medium enterprises/ industries and factories in the country;
(b)if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government against such MSMEs in this regard;
(c)whether any child labourers working in Micro, Small and Medium enterprises have been rescued during the last three years;
(d)if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise; and
(e)the other steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)

(a) & (b): The number of main workers in the age group of 5-14 years in the country is 43.53 lakh as per 2011 Census which shows a decline from 2001 Census. The number of main workers in the age group of 5 to 14 years, as per 2011 Census, State-wise is given at Annexure-I. The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 provides for action by appropriate Government to secure the compliance with its provisions.

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(c) & (d): Ministry of Labour& Employment is implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme for rehabilitation of child rescued/ withdrawn from the prohibited occupations and processes which may include Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). The number of child labourers rescued/ withdrawn from work, rehabilitated and mainstreamed under National Child Labour Project Scheme during the last three years, State-wise, are given at Annexure-II.
(e): Government is following a multi-pronged strategy. It comprises of statutory and legislative measures, rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work through specific scheme and universal elementary education along with convergence with other schemes for socio-economic development. Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits the employment of children below 14 years of age in certain occupations and processes and regulates the working conditions of children in employment where they are not prohibited. Further, a Bill to amend the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 has been introduced in Rajya Sabha in 2012. Government has decided to move Official Amendments to the Bill. The Amendment Bill along with Official Amendments, inter-alia, covers complete prohibition on employment of children below 14 years, linking the age of prohibition with the age under Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, making the punishment for employers more stringent, the offence made cognizable for employers on employing any child or adolescent in contravention of the Act and Constitution of Child and Adolescent Rehabilitation Fund in the Act itself to carry out rehabilitation activities.
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